



On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff  
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## VR conference supplies wealth of knowledge on Gallaudet services

Vocational Rehabilitation counselors from across the nation who attended a three-day conference at Gallaudet learned that the University does far more than provide a classroom education for deaf students.

"I feel they left the campus with their sleeves rolled up, ready to work with Gallaudet students and personnel," said Janel Lindner, a Gallaudet financial aid advisor who works with state VR counselors and coordinates students' VR benefits between their states and the University. Before the conference, said Lindner, some VR counselors had no idea, for example, that Gallaudet provides support services for deaf students who have secondary disabilities, learning disabilities, or low vision.

Not only were these misconceptions clarified, but the VR professionals who attended the third annual "Gallaudet/VR Connections Conference" learned about Gallaudet's retention efforts, its mentoring programs, its internship opportunities, the application and billing processes for VR clients whose dream is a Gallaudet education, why state and federal regulations for VR students sometimes clash and what to do about it, and much more. They also benefited from presentations by three authorities on the latest trends in VR: Annette Reichman, chief of the Deafness and Communicative Disorders Branch of the U.S. Education Department's Rehabilitation Services Administration, and a member of Gallaudet's Class of '83; Cecil Bradley, VR administrator for the Florida Department of Education, and a 1977 alumnus of Gallaudet; and Sheryl Fernandez, former Northern California VR coordinator for Gallaudet and NTID.

The idea to host a conference at Gallaudet, where approximately 75 percent of the University's students receive some form of VR support, came from Terrye Fishe, North Carolina state coordinator for the Deaf, who suggested to Office of Enrollment Services Director Astrid Goodstein that a training seminar be held for VR professionals on Gallaudet's services. Goodstein agreed, and the first Gallaudet/VR Connections was held in 1999, drawing 40 participants. The event has grown each year, both in size and in the number of presentations offered. The conference is sponsored by the President's Office, with support from Enrollment Services and the Office of Public Relations. This year's conference coordinators were Goodstein and Rosanne Bangura from OES, Darlene Prickett from PR, and Lindner.

"This year was the best. Definitely," said Lindner. In fact, the only disadvantage to this

year's conference, she said, was that many state VR events took place simultaneously, and a number of participants expressed regret that they could not attend them all.

The VR professionals overwhelmingly agreed with Lindner's assessment of the conference. "This was the best conference I have been to in 30 years," said one. "It was a wonderful experience. I would love to return again," said another. "This was very helpful and very educational... I look forward to returning to



"Gallaudet/VR Connections Conference" presenters (from left) Cecil Bradley, VR administrator for the Florida Department of Education; Annette Reichman, chief of the Deafness and Communicative Disorders Branch of the U.S. Education Department's Rehabilitation Services Administration; and Sheryl Fernandez, former Northern California VR coordinator for Gallaudet/NTID, chat between sessions at the conference.



"Gallaudet/VR Connections Conference" participants learn about services to deaf-blind individuals that the Office of Students with Disabilities provides. Among those at the table are (from near left): Edgar Palmer, director of OSD and the Tutorial Center; Mark Morales, interpreter; Arthur Roehrig, OSD human development counselor; and (standing) Judy Beldon, interpreter.

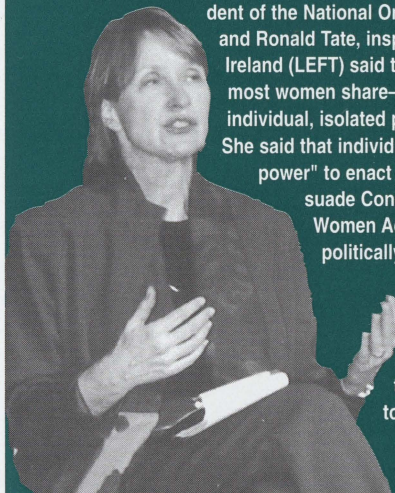
Gallaudet in the future and utilizing your resources here," said a third. "Next year try to have a teleconference link to expand the audience to VR counselors in other states," another participant suggested.

One of the main highlights of the conference was a reception at House One. "It was a big plus for them to be able to shake hands with President and Mrs. Jordan," said Lindner. "It meant so much to them, it was beyond words."

It is interesting to note that the conference did not just draw VR counselors with clients who are

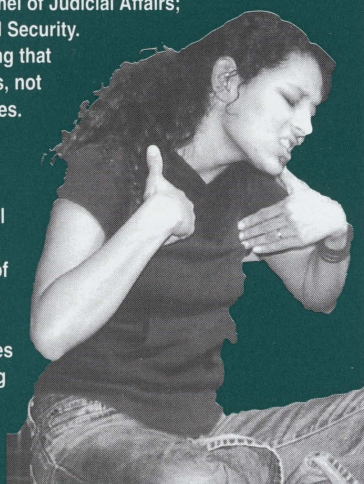
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Gallaudet recognized Women's History Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Week April 4 by presenting its fifth annual "Take Back the Night," an evening of frank dialogue and skits dealing with sexual abuse to women and men—not only the physical and emotional scars it leaves on the victim, but how it affects their families, friends, and others who are close to them. The evening featured the popular "Straight Talk," vignettes performed by Gallaudet students based on true stories of sexual abuse and sexual assault survivors and those who support them. Another highlight of the evening was a panel discussion by representatives of various offices or organizations who answered questions and shared information about services provided to men and women who have experienced sexual misconduct or abuse. The panelists (BELOW) were (from left): Amy Linneman with the D.C. Rape Crisis Center; Janine Cory, coordinator of Gallaudet's Health and Wellness Programs; Neal Axton of Men Can Stop Rape; Lauren Esposito of the Gallaudet Mental Health Center; Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization for Women (NOW); Travis Imel of Judicial Affairs; and Ronald Tate, inspector for the Department of Safety and Security.



Ireland (LEFT) said that violence against women—something that most women share—and hate crimes are societal problems, not individual, isolated problems, that involve changing attitudes. She said that individuals "have a tremendous amount of power" to enact change, such as NOW's efforts to persuade Congress to pass the Violence Against Women Act. She urged the group to "take control politically to keep violence from happening."

(RIGHT) Donna Valverde was one of the students in "Straight Talk" who acted out a story involving sexual abuse. Valverde's character confesses the struggle she is going through trying to cope with daily life after being raped.







(From left) Russell Loue, D.S. Nicholas, and David Reinhart exhibited their paintings and gave a slide show and lecture in the Washburn Arts Gallery on March 26. The three recently received their MFAs in painting from The University of the Arts in Philadelphia and were at Gallaudet to talk about their work. The exhibition was presented through "gallaudet connections."

## Early childhood education programs seek donated items

By Gail Solit

**S**top! Before you throw away that old hat or feathered boa, or those old dance shoes, why not consider donating them to one or both of the Early Childhood Programs at the Clerc Center: the Preschool Team and the Child Development Center (CDC).

The Preschool Team is in the process of renovating its "Piazza," and we need your help. The Preschool's Piazza, an integral part of the Reggio Emilia-inspired program, should be a warm, stimulating, and inspiring learning environment for students, teachers, and parents. It can become all of that with your support.


To transfer our current learning space into a Piazza that is designed to stimulate creativity, encourage problem solving, enhance motor development, promote scientific thinking about the natural world around us, and provide exposure to music, we need the following items: scarves, capes, corks, hats, ponchos, funnels, feathered boas, tutus, scoops, coats, kimonos, tin pans, vests, aprons, shoes, mirrors, Mylar, seashells, magnifying glasses, tablecloths, bean bags, kaleidoscopes, dried flowers, balls, pinecones, waterfalls,

vases, hoops, stones, oceans-in-a-bottle, napkin rings, water stones, kites, placemats, animal figurines, glass bottles, wicker baskets, marbles, prisms, musical instruments, CDs, disco lights, cassette tapes, dance videotapes, music boxes, plants, plant cuttings, tapestries/wall hangings, mobiles, area rugs, fabrics.

### At CDC:

Small woks, tape measures, plants, small pots and pans, small hammers, soil, wooden bowls, screwdrivers, seeds, trays, wood scraps, bubbles, sandpaper, buttons, postcards, feathers, cardboard, sequins, used holiday cards, spools, ribbons, material.

Feeling especially generous? Invest in the Early Childhood Education Programs at the Clerc Center by donating the following items: digital camera, tape recorder, video camera, zip disks (100 or 250), 35 mm or Polaroid 600 film, smart card for digital camera, ink cartridges for computers, small tables, couches, cabinets, small lamps.

Please bring your donations to Gail Solit, KDES Room 2219. 



(FROM LEFT) Dr. Dan Downey, Dorothy (Del) Wynne, Ron Petrocchi, Dan Lundberg, and Dr. Gina MacDonald discuss the five-week summer science internship at James Madison University.


## Program promotes science careers

**A** National Science Foundation grant that is helping boost the dwindling numbers of college students who are choosing science as a career was opened two years ago to include deaf students.

James Madison University chemistry professors Dr. Dan Downey and Dr. Gina MacDonald came to Gallaudet recently and met with Clerc Center Grade 11 science teacher/researcher Dorothy (Del) Wynne and Gallaudet biology majors Ron Petrocchi and Dan Lundberg, who along with student Mike Wynne participated in a five-week internship at JMU last summer. Del Wynne acted as a liaison and assistant to MacDonald.

Both of the JMU professors came to Gallaudet to talk to various chemistry and biology classes about their program to recruit possible interns for this summer. The students work with under-


graduates from other universities and learn different techniques in doing research. They give Power Point presentations on their work at the end of the program. For example, last summer the Gallaudet students did work on myoglobin, a protein found in muscle, and in the summer of 1999, Del Wynne assisted others in isolating lactalbumin, a milk protein.

The Harrisonburg, Va., university is one of 60 internship sites nationally that are funded by the National Science Foundation to bring students into a science laboratory under faculty mentorship. This summer, at least two more Gallaudet students will enter the program. They will be selected after being interviewed by a screening committee consisting of Del Wynne and two faculty members from the Biology and Chemistry Departments and the Career Center. 

## Vocational rehabilitation

continued from page 1

Gallaudet students. "Probably half of the counselors who attended this year didn't even have a client who is a student at Gallaudet, but they came to learn if this is the place to send them for an education," said Lindner. She was pleased to discover from talking with counselors after the conference that their impressions are favorable. "A few said they will go back and say [to their clients], 'You have a place at Gallaudet. You can fit in. There are others who are like you,'" she said. "They also learned that Gallaudet and the counselors share the same goals for their consumers—to complete their degrees and to succeed."

"VR counselors have always been an important part of our community," said Goodstein. "It's heartening to see how we strengthen our student-centered partnership." 

If your department is receiving too few or too many copies of *On the Green*, please let us know. Call Roz Prickett at x5788 (V/TTY) or e-mail [roz.prickett@gallaudet.edu](mailto:roz.prickett@gallaudet.edu).

Check out 'On the Green's' Web version. Many of the articles and photographs that appear in each week's issue of *On the Green* can also be read in *On the Green's* Web version, the online version of Gallaudet's faculty/staff newsletter. *On the Green's* Web version can be accessed through the University's homepage.



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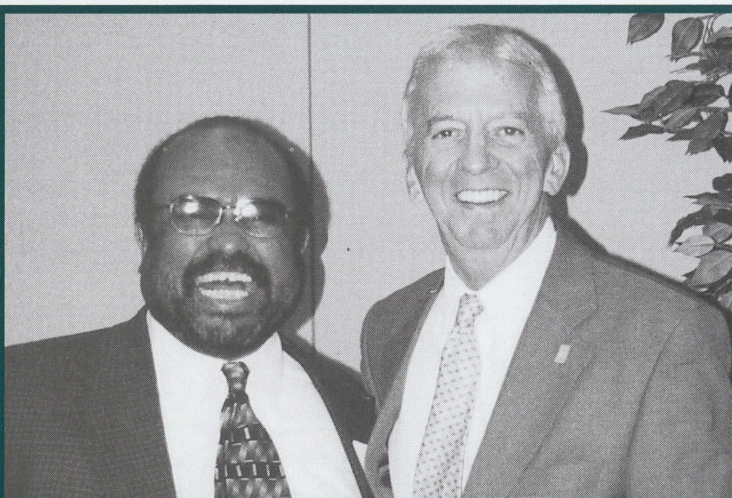
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The University and the Gallaudet Community Relations Council (GCRC) co-hosted a Community Get-Acquainted Reception in the Gallaudet University Kellogg Conference Center on April 4 to provide an opportunity for University administrators to meet and mingle with community leaders. Pictured are (LEFT) Wilhelmina Lawson (left) and Rhonda Chappell, both commissioners from Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 5B, in which Gallaudet is located, and (RIGHT) Eric Jones, with President Jordan, a member of GCRC and project manager for the H Street Community Development Corporation.





## NOTES FROM PERSONNEL

## Service awards for March

## Ten years:

**Roz Prickett**, publications manager, Public Relations

## Twenty years:

**Jacqueline Mann**, coordinator, Extension Programs; **Martha Benbow**, custodian, Custodial Services

## Twenty-five years:

**Robert Reed**, environmental/computer system technician, Maintenance Services

## New employees hired in March:

**Justen Burns**, residential educator, Residence Education, Clerc Center; **Brandon Caesar**, registered nurse, Student Health Service; **Elsie Castrence**, physician, Student Health Service; **David Chidlow**, medical accounts technician, Student Health Service; **Chantrawan Chittasingh**, clinical supervisor, Student Health Service; **Nathalie Devigne**, teacher, Child Development Center; **Amanda**

**Garner**, registered nurse, Student Health Service; **Rena Gordon**, receptionist/secretary II, Student Health Service; **Carol Jackson**, registered nurse, Student Health Service; **Darrell Johnson**, multimedia production specialist, TV and Media Production Services; **Russell Kestenbaum**, accounting clerk, Accounting; **Kristin McCarty**, grants and contracts assistant, Office of Sponsored Programs; **Lynne Murray**, assistant executive director of development and director of corporate/foundation relations, Development Office; **Ellen Norton**, registered nurse, Student Health Service; **Larristine Stoddard**, accounting clerk, Cashier's Office

## Retirements in March

**Linda Wick**, Library; **Barbara McNamara**, administrative assistant, former School of Management

## Promotion:

**Christina Sigler**, associate director of annual giving, Development Office

Kurt Kornkven:  
'Hurry up! The baby's coming out!'

How would you describe your children, your nieces, your nephews, etc? Friendly, but doesn't like to brush their teeth? Smart, but a picky eater?

For MSSD residential advisor Kurt Kornkven it is probably appropriate to describe his nine-month-old daughter, Ella-Berri Kornkven, as lovable, but impatient.

July 24, 2000 started off as a normal day, with Kurt kissing his nine-months-pregnant wife Susie and six-year-old son Cody goodbye, then heading to Gallaudet where he was a special police officer for DOSS on the 4 p.m. to 12 a.m. shift, a job he had held for nine years. Late in his shift, patrolling the campus on his bike, Kurt's supervisor, Gregory Borges, tracked him down.

"Gregory told me my wife had called, and I immediately knew what it was about. I hustled over to the DOSS Office and called Susie. She said that while she

was sleeping her water broke," explained Kurt.


Susie's labor with Cody, who is a second grader at KDES, was 22 hours, and with daughter Elsa, who lived for one month, it was 21 hours, so Kurt thought he had plenty of time to get home to Susie in their Columbia, Md., home. When he arrived 30 minutes later, Susie was outside. "I took one look at Susie and I knew there wasn't much time left," he said. Kurt helped his wife into the front seat of their SUV and put Cody in the back.

They sped towards Laurel Regional Hospital, 10 minutes away. Susie kept telling Kurt, "Hurry up! The baby is coming out!" According to Kurt, "It felt like I was in a movie! The overhead light was on and I told Susie to hang on until we get to the hospital." Susie said, "I can't!"

Just 100 feet from the emer-

gency room Kurt saw the baby's head come out, so he pulled over, ran to the other side of the SUV, opened the door, and caught the baby and held on. "I was holding the baby. It was very dark. I didn't know what to do," he said.

Fortunately, the driver of a passing car who works at the hospital heard Kurt's cries for help and called the emergency room on his cell phone, then got in the SUV and held the baby while Kurt slowly drove the short distance to the emergency room. Then dozens of doctors and nurses came running out of the hospital with a gurney.

Baby and mother were just fine. And Cody? "Cody was sitting back there with his mouth open, just speechless," said Kurt. "That's when he found out where baby's come from." And Kurt? "Now my family calls me Dr. Kornkven." 



The Kornkvens: Kurt, Susie, Cody, and Ella-Berri.

## ROVING REPORTER

March 13 – April 15 was Deaf History Month. What can be done to get more publicity and recognition of this designation? Should Gallaudet be more actively involved in promoting and supporting this?



**Diana Gates**, reference and instruction librarian, Library:

*There are many kinds of things that could be done; it only takes a little bit of creativity and work behind it to pull it off. Faculty could work through different agencies in the metro area and allow students to make presentations as a part of their coursework, community services, and internships.*



**Arlene Kelly**, assistant professor, Department of Deaf Studies:

*The concept of deaf history should be introduced in elementary schools, either residential or mainstreamed, so that pride of history could be instilled in young deaf children early on. Too many deaf adults are*

*unaware of their own history. It is questionable that March 13-April 15 is the designated Deaf History Month because various institutions celebrate it at different times of the year. For example, the National Association of the Deaf designates September. So that becomes confusing.*



**Daphne McGregor**, associate director, Office of Alumni Relations:

*It is great to have Deaf History Month; however, we have Deaf Awareness (September), Gallaudet-Clerc celebration (December), Gallaudet Charter Day (April), Mother Father Deaf Day (last Sunday*

*in April), and Deaf President Now (March). The deaf community and Gallaudet need to address these issues and decide on which time of the year to promote, publicize, and recognize these special celebrations.*



**Sandy McLennon**, assistant professor, Department of Physical Education and Recreation:

*Gallaudet could finance having outstanding deaf guest speakers. That way we would have more diverse role models to look up to.*

## AMONG OURSELVES

Theatre Arts Assistant Professor **Willy Conley's** article, "With a global sense of movement and a natural ability to fill space, deaf artists strive to become more visible," was recently published in *American Theatre* magazine. The article focuses on the trials and tribulations that deaf and disabled theater artists face in the world of professional theater. It laments the fact that many theaters do not take advantage of deaf performers who have great facial expressions and acting skills, but on an encouraging note, also talks about the increase in the number of theaters offering performances by, of, and for deaf performers and audiences. The article can be found on the web at [http://www.tcg.org/am\\_theatre/at0401\\_conley.html](http://www.tcg.org/am_theatre/at0401_conley.html)

Transportation Department Manager **Darnese Nicholson** has been invited to serve on the National Special Needs Team Safety Rodeo Advisory Committee for the 2002 event. She was asked to participate by Rodeo Facilitator **Jim Ellis**, "because you have many good ideas about the Rodeo and seem to have both the expertise

and passion for special needs transportation that can help us further improve the Rodeo." Transportation Department drivers **Jacqueline Campbell** and **Lawrence Curtis**, coached by department Supervisor **Gary Wormley**, took fourth place in this year's event, held in Phoenix, Ariz.

**Dr. Stephen Chaikind**, professor and chair of the Business Administration, Economics, and Finance Department, recently co-edited a new book with **Dr. William Fowler, Jr.** from the National Center for Education Statistics in the U.S. Department of Education, *Education Finance in the New Millennium*, the 2001 Yearbook for the American Education Finance Association. Chaikind also wrote part of the text, including a chapter on the finance of special education programs. The book reaffirms the connections between the field of education finance and the wider education community. Among the topics discussed are outcome assessment, accountability, charter schools, vouchers, equity, adequacy, education productivity, and experimentation.





## WHAT'S HAPPENING... AND WHEN

### April:

**20**-Open House for prospective students, Admissions Office, Chapel Hall. 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. For more information, call Patty Shaffner, x5383.

**20-21**-Gallaudet Dance Company Spring Dance Concert, "Dancing into the Third Millennium, Celebrating Diversity," Elstad Auditorium, 8 p.m., \$10/adults, \$8/students and senior citizens, box office hours April 16-20, 3-6 p.m. For more information, call x5493 or x5591.

**21-24**-National High School Academic Bowl for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students featuring regional winners Florida School for the Deaf, California School for the Deaf-Fremont, Model Secondary School for the Deaf, John Hershey High School (Arlington Heights, Ill.), and Rochester School for the Deaf (Rochester, N.Y.), GUKCC. For more information, call x5883.

**26**-Softball vs. Columbia Union (2 games), 3:30 p.m.

**28**-Christmas in April, 60 students and 20 faculty and staff volunteers needed to remodel and paint at the Capitol Children's Museum, Third and H Streets, N.E., 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Bus will be at Benson Circle at 8 a.m. to transport workers to the site.

**28**-Baseball vs. Williamson Trade (2 games), 1 p.m.

### May:

**1**-Classes end

**2**-Study Day

**3**-Final examination period begins

## CLERC CENTER HAPPENINGS



### MSSD teacher recognized as leader in distance learning

By Susan M. Flanigan

The United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) has recognized MSSD science teacher/researcher Mary Ellsworth as a leader in distance learning for grades K through 12.

The award is for the innovative Science Observing And Reporting (SOAR)-High Earth System Science project Ellsworth developed as a collaboration with University High School in Irvine, Calif., and the Indiana School for the Deaf in Indianapolis. The award will be presented at an April 19 ceremony during the 11th Annual e-learning Conference, at the Washington, D.C., Convention Center.

The USDLA Distance Learning Award for Excellence in Distance Teaching is given annually in recognition of an outstanding individual who has creatively utilized distance education technology to inspire learning. In order to receive the award, the recipient must have taught a course, series, or unit in a distance learning format with an imaginative approach to the material taught, well-designed instructional strategies, and a demonstrated rapport with the program participants.

Ellsworth developed the course work for the SOAR-High Earth System Science distance-learning project using Web pages. The first Earth System Science class went online in the fall of 1999. Students and teachers in distant classrooms share an on-line curriculum and interact with each other via on-line discussion,

collaboration software, and video-conferencing.

"The students learn to do science as scientists do it—a process that involves reading, learning, experimenting, analyzing, writing, collaboration, and sharing information," said Ellsworth. "Throughout the course, the students at each one of the three sites conduct background research, develop a question and a testable hypothesis, utilize visualizations of data, and publish their findings on the Internet. The classes access the on-line curriculum and exchange information electronically with each other as part of the SOAR-High Earth System Science community."

Ellsworth wishes to express her appreciation to her SOAR-High colleagues: Sarah Raymond, MSSD science teacher; Teresa Huckleberry, Indiana School for the Deaf science teacher; Chris Gonzales, University High School science teacher; and Dr. David Snyder, professor in the Chemistry and Physics Department at Gallaudet University for their support of this project. "I'd also like to extend a special thank you to all the wonderful MSSD students for their participation and assistance, and their willingness to investigate collaborative distance learning as a new learning style," said Ellsworth.

For more information about the SOAR-High project, visit the Web site at:

<http://csc.gallaudet.edu/soarhigh>



His Excellency, Abdulwahab Al-Hajri, the Ambassador of Yemen (fourth from left), and Ms. Ghafoura Alwadi (second from left), a counselor from Yemen, are greeted by President Jordan during a campus tour on March 30. The visit was initiated by Ido Achrak (left), a 1995 graduate of Gallaudet, who is of Yemani descent and is interested in increasing opportunities for education and empowerment of Yemen's deaf community. The University's Center for Global Education hopes that the visit will lead to a team of Yemani teachers attending its summer training program, and/or one or more Yemani individuals coming for its International Internship Program. (Also pictured are Carolyn Ressler, GIS interpreter III, and Dr. Robert Mobley, CGE interim director.)



### Stu • dent • sau • rus

(stōo • dant • soar • us) n. 1. a special breed of inquisitive men and women who Gallaudet recruits, retains, and educates. 2. pizza-eaters.

### Dana Berkowitz—taking new challenges



Dana Berkowitz

Dana Berkowitz is only in her first year as a graduate student, but she is already taking on new challenges by serving as president of the Graduate Student Association.

"I am a social person and I like to help people," said Berkowitz. These were traits that former GSA President Marilyn Fernandez, who served two years ago, noticed when she encouraged Berkowitz to run for the post.

Berkowitz had no previous experience in politics or government at her previous school, the University of Central Florida, where she earned a bachelor's

degree in communication disorders.

"Gallaudet is so much different and it's a much smaller place," said Berkowitz, comparing Gallaudet's 2,000 students with the approximately 40,000 at her former school. "I never lived in the dorm before, and it's been a wonderful experience at Gallaudet," she said, adding, "I hardly knew anyone at Central Florida, but here at Gallaudet I pass by people every day and know a lot of them. It's wonderful!"

Berkowitz is focusing on mastering the GSA presidency by working closely with the administration and the Student Body Government. "One of the things my administration has done is reestablish strong communication with the Provost's Office and the SBG to help address graduate student concerns," she said. Those concerns include campus

security, including access to the dorms, and the ongoing building renovations.

The Berkowitz administration has also made things fun for graduate students with monthly socials, and community service projects such as off-campus clean-up days.

Moving from Florida to Washington, D.C., also presented another challenge for Berkowitz: "I saw snow fall for the first time in my entire life in January!" she laughed as she talked about classes being cancelled that day—a luxury she never had before. She took advantage of the opportunity to try out snow skiing with her mom at a resort in Pennsylvania. "It was funny because when I took my lesson, there were two other adults in my group, and both of them were from Florida, also!"



**Responsible alumna** seeks housesitting duties anytime from June 4 - August 3. Willing to pay low rent or barter services in exchange for room for self and two children during summer. Reference available. E-mail Kwani83@aol.com or call (410) 287-8610 (TTY), ask for Tracy.